

legislation ultimately if it is, in fact, passed and we move forward with it. Another thing that we clarify all along on the whole issue of this welfare reform has been health care benefits will be made available, that national health reform is coming, we'll have everybody covered, universal coverage will be there, so we don't have to worry about the health care side of it. We'll worry about the transition benefits like child care and those sort of things, but health care, no problem. Well, there is a problem. I'm not sure what's going to happen nationally. I don't know what kind of national coverage will be available and we're...we're putting into this that there is an intent that there will be transitional health care benefits up to 185 percent of poverty. Now that's the same sort of language we put in for child care, as Senator Rasmussen worked on that and the committee, we're using that to talk about health care and also the concept of a sliding fee scale and using other types of approaches to one way or another provide for health care for transition, at least until a person gets 185 percent of poverty. Again, a very important specific change that I think will help with some of the concerns that were expressed. The next thing we talk about is, is the job available? And we talk...that was one of the changes, the original bill said basically two years and out, and then in the committee amendments, worked on again by members of the Health and Human Services Committee, we talked about if there is a job available. But now we're taking it the next step and saying, well, what kind of job. Well, we couldn't exactly say full-time, part-time, minimum wage, and what have you, because there's variables about what might be the situation and what might be available. So what we did instead was, in part, tied back into Senator Crosby's concerns, is we said, look, the job...when we talk about being a job available and being cut off after two years, that job has to pay you at least as much as you would be making in cash assistance on...on the welfare system. And this can be worked out with the department as to exactly how this would be worded. But the intent is that we're not going to dump you off into some job where you work and you're making less than you would on...on welfare in terms of your assistance and then also, again, child care and health care would be there to supplement so that it isn't a step down when your two years are up but, in fact, you will be at least as good off or better off with that job. And that's a sensible, I think, compromise. It's not as far as Senator Crosby would like to go but it is, I think, reasonable in terms of what most people would say we are intending in terms of welfare reform. We also, in respect to Senator Schimek and others' concerns